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FEBRUARY LOCAL UNEMPLOYMENT RATES ANNOUNCED

METRO AREAS

Madison – Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Secretary Roberta Gassman today announced all twelve of the state's metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs) had February 2006 unemployment rates that were lower than one year ago. The statewide rate followed suit with a rate of 5.7% which was two-tenths of a percentage point lower than February 2005. The Eau Claire MSA had the largest decrease in its unemployment rate by six-tenths of a percentage point. All twelve of the state's metropolitan areas showed increases in their February rates over January rates, which is typical between the months of January and February.

Statewide nonfarm wage and salary estimates show net job growth of 11,500 jobs over January figures and net growth of 41,900 over one year ago. Eleven of the 12 metro areas showed job gains compared to February 2005. The Green Bay MSA and the Madison MSA posted significant annual job gains of 3,800 jobs and 7,400 jobs, respectively. The Milwaukee-Waukesha-West Allis MSA was the lone metro area to post a net loss of jobs when compared to February 2005.

"Wisconsin's labor market continues to show healthy gains in 2006 in all of our metropolitan areas, with decreasing unemployment for the second month in a row when compared to 2005," said Secretary Gassman.

COUNTY RATES

Fifty-five of Wisconsin's 72 counties have lower unemployment rates when compared to February 2005; five counties are unchanged; and 12 have higher rates. Iron County posted the largest annual rate decrease of 1.6 percentage points. Menominee County measured the largest annual increase, up two percent points compared to February 2005. In total, 21 counties have unemployment rates that are at least one-half of a percentage point lower than they were in February 2005.

Seventy of Wisconsin's 72 counties posted a monthly increase in unemployment rate. The exceptions were Polk County, which decreased by seven-tenths of a percentage point to 7.5 percent and Pierce County's rate remained unchanged from January's 5.5 percent unemployment rate. The highest increase in unemployment rate was measured in Florence County with an increase of 2.5 percent points over the month to 8.0 percent. The lowest unemployment rate in February was Dane County's 3.6 percent. Ozaukee County was second lowest at 4.1 percent. The highest county-level unemployment rate was 10.3 percent in Menominee County. Iron County had the second highest at 9.4 percent.

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Employment and Labor Force

Place of Residence Data

Unadjusted labor force estimates

	Current	Month Ago	Year Ago
Total labor force	3,042,300	3,033,900	3,018,900
Employed	2,868,600	2,880,900	2,840,100
Unemployed	173,700	153,000	178,800
Wis. Unemployment Rate	5.7%	5.0%	5.9%
U.S. Unemployment Rate	5.1%	5.1%	5.8%

Adjusted labor force estimates

	Current	Month Ago	Year Ago
<i>Total labor force</i>	3,066,100	3,061,300	3,041,300
<i>Employed</i>	2,919,100	2,924,100	2,894,500
<i>Unemployed</i>	147,100	137,200	146,900
<i>Wis. Unemployment Rate</i>	4.8%	4.5%	4.8%
<i>U.S. Unemployment Rate</i>	4.8%	4.7%	5.4%

Unadjusted Unemployment Rate, by WI Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA)

MSA	Current	Month Ago	Year Ago
<i>Wisconsin</i>	5.7	5.0	5.9
<i>Appleton</i>	5.5	4.8	5.6
<i>Eau Claire</i>	5.5	5.0	6.1
<i>Fond du Lac</i>	5.6	4.9	5.7
<i>Green Bay</i>	5.6	5.0	5.8
<i>Janesville</i>	5.9	5.4	6.2
<i>La Crosse</i>	4.9	4.5	5.3
<i>Madison</i>	3.9	3.4	4.0
<i>Milwaukee-Waukesha-West Allis</i>	5.6	5.0	5.7
<i>Oshkosh-Neenah</i>	5.2	4.6	5.3
<i>Racine</i>	6.7	6.0	7.1
<i>Sheboygan</i>	4.7	4.0	4.8
<i>Wausau</i>	5.5	4.4	5.6

Place of Work Data

Nonfarm wage and salary estimates, by WI Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), in thousands

MSA	Current	Month Ago	Year Ago
<i>Wisconsin</i>	2807.9	2796.4	2766
<i>Appleton</i>	114.9	115.4	114
<i>Eau Claire</i>	79.1	77.2	77.5
<i>Fond du Lac</i>	48.2	48.1	47.3
<i>Green Bay</i>	167.9	165.3	164.1
<i>Janesville</i>	68.5	68.1	67.8
<i>La Crosse</i>	71.9	71.8	71.4
<i>Madison</i>	342.4	341.6	335
<i>Milwaukee-Waukesha-West Allis</i>	816.0	816.4	823.5
<i>Oshkosh-Neenah</i>	90.3	90.1	89.9
<i>Racine</i>	80.5	80.3	78.6
<i>Sheboygan</i>	62.4	62.6	61.7
<i>Wausau</i>	71.1	71.5	70.2

WISCONSIN COUNTIES
Unemployment Rates
February 2006
(Not Seasonally Adjusted)

RANK	COUNTY	RATE	LAST RATE	LAST RANK	YR AGO RATE	RANK	COUNTY	RATE	LAST RATE	LAST RANK	YR AGO RATE
4	ADAMS	8.9%	8.3%	3	9.6%	56	MARATHON	5.5%	4.4%	64	5.6%
33	ASHLAND	6.5%	5.7%	35	7.2%	17	MARINETTE	7.7%	6.7%	18	7.4%
26	BARRON	7.3%	6.4%	25	8.3%	12	MARQUETTE	8.0%	7.1%	13	8.8%
3	BAYFIELD	9.3%	8.0%	5	9.1%	1	MENOMINEE	10.3%	9.9%	1	8.3%
61	BROWN	5.3%	4.8%	54	5.4%	34	MILWAUKEE	6.4%	5.7%	34	6.5%
64	BUFFALO	5.0%	4.7%	56	5.7%	62	MONROE	5.2%	4.7%	57	5.4%
19	BURNETT	7.6%	6.8%	17	7.9%	13	OCONTO	8.0%	6.7%	19	7.8%
66	CALUMET	4.7%	4.0%	68	4.8%	10	ONEIDA	8.1%	7.3%	11	8.4%
27	CHIPPEWA	7.2%	6.5%	22	7.8%	50	OUTAGAMIE	5.7%	5.0%	47	5.8%
16	CLARK	7.9%	6.5%	23	8.2%	71	OZAUKEE	4.1%	3.7%	71	4.2%
42	COLUMBIA	5.9%	5.2%	43	5.8%	31	PEPIN	6.6%	5.9%	28	7.9%
36	CRAWFORD	6.2%	5.4%	40	6.8%	54	PIERCE	5.5%	5.5%	36	5.6%
72	DANE	3.6%	3.1%	72	3.7%	20	POLK	7.5%	8.2%	4	7.5%
44	DODGE	5.9%	5.1%	46	6.0%	49	PORTAGE	5.8%	4.9%	52	6.2%
15	DOOR	7.9%	7.1%	12	8.7%	60	PRICE	5.4%	4.5%	63	5.6%
38	DOUGLAS	6.1%	5.8%	31	6.7%	30	RACINE	6.7%	6.0%	26	7.1%
46	DUNN	5.9%	4.8%	55	6.1%	55	RICHLAND	5.5%	4.7%	59	5.8%
69	EAU CLAIRE	4.5%	4.1%	67	5.1%	41	ROCK	5.9%	5.4%	39	6.2%
14	FLORENCE	8.0%	5.5%	38	7.3%	9	RUSK	8.3%	7.0%	14	8.5%
53	FOND DU LAC	5.6%	4.9%	50	5.7%	43	SAUK	5.9%	5.1%	45	6.1%
5	FOREST	8.9%	7.9%	6	9.0%	6	SAWYER	8.7%	7.7%	8	8.6%
52	GRANT	5.7%	4.6%	62	5.9%	35	SHAWANO	6.3%	5.7%	33	6.5%
51	GREEN	5.7%	4.9%	51	5.7%	67	SHEBOYGAN	4.7%	4.0%	69	4.8%
21	GREEN LAKE	7.5%	6.9%	15	8.3%	32	ST. CROIX	6.5%	5.8%	32	6.4%
39	IOWA	6.1%	5.3%	41	6.1%	24	TAYLOR	7.4%	5.9%	29	8.0%
2	IRON	9.4%	9.3%	2	11.0%	48	TREMPEALEAU	5.8%	5.0%	48	6.5%
7	JACKSON	8.5%	7.4%	10	8.4%	40	VERNON	6.1%	5.3%	42	6.0%
59	JEFFERSON	5.4%	4.6%	61	6.0%	8	VILAS	8.3%	7.4%	9	8.8%
25	JUNEAU	7.3%	6.6%	20	7.9%	58	WALWORTH	5.4%	4.7%	58	5.4%
47	KENOSHA	5.8%	5.5%	37	6.7%	11	WASHBURN	8.0%	7.8%	7	8.8%
57	KEWAUNEE	5.4%	4.9%	49	6.1%	65	WASHINGTON	5.0%	4.3%	65	5.3%
68	LA CROSSE	4.6%	4.2%	66	5.0%	70	WAUKESHA	4.4%	3.9%	70	4.6%
45	LAFAYETTE	5.9%	4.9%	53	5.8%	29	WAUPACA	6.8%	6.0%	27	7.0%
18	LANGLADE	7.6%	6.9%	16	7.6%	22	WAUSHARA	7.5%	6.6%	21	7.3%
28	LINCOLN	7.2%	6.4%	24	7.3%	63	WINNEBAGO	5.2%	4.6%	60	5.3%

Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development
Bureau of Workforce Information

WISCONSIN CITIES
Unemployment Rates
February 2006
 (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

RANK	CITY	RATE	LAST RATE	LAST RANK	YR AGO RATE
6	APPLETON CITY	7.1%	6.3%	7	7.3%
2	BELOIT CITY	8.2%	7.6%	2	9.0%
27	BROOKFIELD CITY	3.8%	3.3%	27	3.9%
20	EAU CLAIRE CITY	4.8%	4.5%	19	5.6%
11	FOND DU LAC CITY	6.4%	5.9%	9	6.4%
26	FRANKLIN CITY	4.2%	3.6%	26	4.3%
3	GREEN BAY CITY	7.9%	7.4%	3	8.4%
19	GREENFIELD CITY	5.2%	4.3%	20	5.1%
12	JANESVILLE CITY	6.0%	5.5%	11	6.2%
9	KENOSHA CITY	6.5%	6.4%	5	7.6%
18	LA CROSSE CITY	5.4%	5.1%	15	5.9%
28	MADISON CITY	3.3%	2.9%	28	3.4%
7	MANITOWOC CITY	7.1%	6.3%	8	7.5%
23	MENOMONEE FALLS VILLAGE	4.4%	3.7%	25	4.5%
4	MILWAUKEE CITY	7.8%	7.1%	4	8.0%
21	NEENAH CITY	4.5%	3.9%	21	4.4%
25	NEW BERLIN CITY	4.3%	3.7%	24	4.4%
22	OAK CREEK CITY	4.5%	3.9%	22	4.9%
17	OSHKOSH CITY	5.6%	4.9%	18	5.8%
1	RACINE CITY	10.1%	9.5%	1	11.1%
13	SHEBOYGAN CITY	5.8%	5.0%	16	6.1%
8	STEVENS POINT CITY	6.9%	5.9%	10	7.0%
16	SUPERIOR CITY	5.6%	5.2%	13	6.2%
15	WAUKESHA CITY	5.7%	5.2%	14	5.7%
10	WAUSAU CITY	6.5%	5.4%	12	7.0%
24	WAUWATOSA CITY	4.3%	3.8%	23	4.2%
14	WEST ALLIS CITY	5.8%	5.0%	17	6.0%
5	WEST BEND CITY	7.3%	6.4%	6	7.9%

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